

FDD-PST

From: slahr@doe.k12.ga.us
Sent: Thursday, April 27, 2000 1:45 PM
To: fdd-pst@fns.usda.gov
Subject: USDA's BPR

Dear Director:

This is being written in regard to the proposed changes to the commodity Food

Distribution Program. I am very concerned about some of the changes proposed and will comment on them.

Section I: Problems and concerns

...The form in which commodities are received at the local level has definitely improved

...The problems of uneven flow of product has improved

...Our delivery of commodities is much more predictable

Section II Improvements to the Commodity Program

...Expanding the use of long-term contracts would be positive

...School Nutrition Directors need to be involved in upgrading product specifications. Is the quality going to be better or lower?

...If vendors use commercial labels for USDA commodities this could result in

extreme difficulty when receiving goods and

when doing inventory. It could be a nightmare for the school staff.

...I would also be in favor of national umbrella contracts with processors with

states able to make contracts also.

...I disagree with allowing processors the freedom of "full substitutability" of

commodity product. Quality could be jeopardized.

...All items addressed under "commodity Holds and Recalls" are acceptable

...Our state does an excellent of communicating on behalf of school systems. I

would not want this changed.

...Since there is not ample time to conduct pilot-tests, changes do not need to

be made that are so drastic.

Since relatively current data shows that by far the majority of the country's School Nutrition Directors feel that their state agencies are doing a

very good job, USDA needs to work more closely with those states experiencing

difficulty with the program. Most of us are very pleased with the foods received and would only hope that the input of experienced nutrition directors

would be considered before any changes are made.

Thank you for your consideration in this issue. It is of utmost importance to the vitality of the program.

Sincerely,
Sherrill Lahr
School Nutrition Director
Brooks County Schools
Quitman, Georgia